

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: EEC, ETRD, TU, GR

SUBJECT: EC RELATIONS WITH GREECE AND TURKEY

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 1681, (B) EC BRUSSELS 2191, (C) EC BRUSSELS 4757

(D) ATHENS 7078

1. THE EC COMMITTEE OF PERMAMENT REPRESENTATIVES (COREPER) HAS DECIDED TO RECOMMEND TO THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL ON JULY 19 THAT ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETINGS BE HELD WITH THE TURKS ON JULY 24 IN ANKARA AND WITH THE GREEKS ON JULY 27 IN BRUSSELS (REFTEL D). GREEK MEMBERSHIP NEGOTIATIONS WILL FORMALLY BE OPENED THEN. THE AGREEMENT, WHICH WAS REACHED LATE JULY 12, REFLECTS THE POLITICAL DECISION THAT THERE MUST BE SOME IMPROVEMENT IN THE TERMS OF THE COMMUNITY'S ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT WITH TURKEY BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE FORMAL OPENING OF GREEK MEMBERSHIP NEGOTIATIONS.

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2. AS A PART OF THE COMPROMISE PACKAGE THE ITALIANS SECURED AGREEMENT THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD DRAW UP A BALANCE SHEET OF THE EFFECTS OF AGRICULTURAL CONCESSIONS UNDER THE COMMUNITY'S MEDITERRANEAN POLICY ON THE MEMBER STATES AND ON THE BASIS OF THIS WOULD MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO HOW THE STATES MOST AFFECTED SHOULD SHARE IN ANY COMPENSATION WARRANTED.

3. OFFERS TO TURKEY WHICH ARE BEING CONSIDERED INCLUDE A NEW FINANCIAL PROTOCOL, NEW CONCESSIONS ON AGRICULTURE WHICH WOULD BRING APPROXIMATELY 90 PERCENT OF TURKISH AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS UNDER PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT, IMPROVEMENTS IN THE SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS OF TURKISH WORKERS EMPLOYED IN THE COMMUNITY, A SLOWING DOWN BY TURKEY OF THE RATE OF TARIFF REDUCTIONS ON PRODUCTS FROM THE COMMUNITY AND A REENFORCEMENT OF CURRENT PROVISIONS FOR ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION.

4. ON THE BASIS OF THESE PLANNED CONCESSIONS TO TURKEY IT WAS AGREED THAT AN ASSOCIATION COUNCIL COULD TAKE PLACE WITH THE GREEKS IN BRUSSELS ON JULY 27. AT THIS TIME NEGOTIATIONS FOR GREEK MEMBERSHIP WILL BE CEREMONIALLY OPENED BUT THE REAL NEGOTIATIONS WILL NOT BEGIN UNTIL THE FALL. WORK WILL ALSO PROCEED ON THE PRESENT ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT INCLUDING A DISCUSSION OF A NEW FINANCIAL PROTOCOL AND HARMONIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL POLICIES. HINTON

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